

## **HABITAT CONSERVATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Technical Committee (TC) was held in the conference room of the Washington County Administration Building, **April 14, 2016.**

Members present were:

Cameron Rognan, Chairman  
John Kellam, Vice Chairman  
Kristen Comella  
Ann McLuckie  
Nathan Brown

Washington County HCP  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Absent and Excused was:

Marshall Topham

Local Biologist

Also present were:

Bob Sandberg  
Lacey McIntyre

Washington County HCP Administrator  
Washington County HCP Recorder

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Cameron Rognan noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a. February 11, 2016**

**MOTION** by Kristen Comella to approve the minutes.

Seconded by John Kellam.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

### **3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **a. Discussion of Sentierre trail proposal**

Kristen would like to continue this item on next month's agenda. She mentioned State Park staff has gone out on the ground and has come up with a few possible options, but they are waiting to get recreation user input from the Citizen Advisory Team before making any decisions. She hopes to have a meeting of the group in early or mid May. Cameron updated the committee that work has started clearing several portions in the area. There were three tortoises in one of the culverts. That culvert will be a water

way so, once the tortoises have moved, HCP staff will close the culvert so the tortoises make their burrows elsewhere.

**b. Determination of firebreaks – Cottonwood Rd. et al.**

The committee discussed options for firebreaks along Cottonwood Road. They agreed, for this year, it would be best to get a small group of goats out to graze within the next couple weeks. It would be similar to last year with a group of goats (about 50-100) and an electric fence to keep them in the right of way. The committee agreed to see about spraying herbicide along the right of way earlier in the year next year. John will discuss the issue with Dawna Farris-Rowley at the BLM and let the committee know.

The committee also discussed future firebreak possibilities and other locations in the Reserve. John will speak with Brian Tritle and Dawna at the BLM and give the committee an update next month.

**MOTION** by Kristen Comella to move forward with a small group of goats and electric fence to use grazing for firebreaks along Cottonwood Road.

Seconded by John Kellam.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

**c. Determination of trail work projects – SUU, ACE, other**

Cameron mentioned SUU might be interested in doing a spring trail work project in the Reserve again this year. Bob also mentioned he spoke with Jake Powell from the American Conservation Experience (ACE) who mentioned their group is available, especially in the winter months. The committee discussed trails and areas on which they could focus their efforts. Ultimately, the committee decided the Pioneer Hills and Pioneer Park area would be one of the best areas for trail work, obliterating old roads and defining trails.

**d. Report on Law Enforcement meeting**

Ann reported that representatives from DWR, State Parks, BLM, and the HCP attended a field trip that was recently taken within Snow Canyon State Park. The group walked the trails and discussed some of the problems encountered in the area. One issue occurs adjacent to the Toe Trail where residents have large bird feeders and suet balls beyond their fences, in the Reserve. Bob will look at the plat maps and make sure the problem areas are in the Reserve.

**e. Report on Middleton Wash project**

Ann reported the ACE crew removed 25+ tires, sprayed herbicide, and removed Russian Olive and

Tamarisk. She hopes there will be enough funds to bring them back again next year.

**f. Report on Restoration project with UNLV**

Ann updated the committee on the restoration project with UNLV. Thursday and Friday a group, including Ann and Nathan, surveyed a third of the 6 meter by 6 meter plots that within the two 100 acre restoration areas. The technique gave a good overview of species diversity and species presence. Ann mentioned there are also monthly conference calls to discuss questions and organize the project.

**4. OTHER REPORTS FROM TC MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a. Cameron mentioned St. George City called and is planning on a new well in the Reserve. They would like to place the well as close to the wilderness boundary as they can but still in the Reserve on SITLA property. Bob will put the issue on the HCAC agenda on April 26<sup>th</sup>, following which they can be on the TC agenda on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

b. John Kellam updated the committee on the land access grants he wrote last fall in regards to the 5 acre Babylon tract that provides access to the Virgin River. He got an email from the State office saying it has been fast tracked for approval. The purchase price is unknown, but the approval is for \$375,000.

c. Kristen reported the funding for the SCSP road shoulder expansion project has come through. That project will be coming back to the TC for discussion soon.

**5. NEXT MEETING DATES**

a. **May 12, 2016**

**6. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Kristen Comella to adjourn.  
Seconded by Nathan Brown.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote was taken: All voted aye.  
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.  
 Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.